



John B. Wolfe, president of the Northwestern College of Chiropractic for 43 years (left). J. LaMoine DeRusha, (below left), a professor at the New York School of Chiropractic, taught anatomy and neurology in the early years of the NWCC.



The evolution of Northwestern College, from modest quarters in downtown Minneapolis (above), to the mansion on Park Avenue (left) and the campus on Mississippi Boulevard in St. Paul (below). The present campus in Bloomington (bottom right) was occupied in 1985.



Diversified Chiropractic: Northwestern College and John B. Wolfe, 1941-1984

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In 1971, Northwestern College of Chiropractic became the smallest of the profession's schools to receive full accreditation by the Council on Chiropractic Education. This was the culmination of a struggle by Northwestern to survive as a college while maintaining high educational standards for its students. This paper records the schools that precede Northwestern with an emphasis on the Minnesota Chiropractic College. The paper focuses on the throes and triumphs that Northwestern encountered under the strong leadership and foresight of its founder and president until 1984, Dr. John B. Wolfe.

Northwestern College of Chiropractic (NWCC) was incorporated on June 2, 1941.¹ The college had humble beginnings with its first location on the sixth floor of a department store in downtown Minneapolis. John B. Wolfe initiated the forming of the college and became its first president. Many obstacles challenged the continuance of the small school and were met by determination on the part of Dr. Wolfe to keep the college a quality institution with a limited enrollment. NWCC was among the first chiropractic colleges to require two years of pre-professional college in 1964² and its combined basic science program with the St. Thomas College of St. Paul, in 1970, was highly praised throughout the profession.³

These strides towards educational excellence resulted in NWCC being the smallest chiropractic college to receive accreditation by the Council on Chiropractic Education in 1971.⁴ Another significant milestone in educational advancement came in 1977 when Northwestern initiated a Chiropractic Preceptor Associate Program that allowed final semester students to intern in the offices of field doctors.⁵ Despite these advancements, the college had suffered many setbacks and was in danger of extinction three times during its history.

Northwestern was not the first chiropractic college in the state. Chiropractic education in Minnesota began shortly after D. D. Palmer started graduating students from his Chiropractic School and Cure in Davenport, Iowa (1897-1902).⁶ A college bearing the same name was started in Minneapolis and headed by a Dr. E. W. Lynch. No information is available concerning the school other than being the school of Almeda Haldeman, the grandmother of Scott Haldeman, D.C., Ph.D., M.D., who graduated from The Chiropractic School and Cure of Minneapolis in 1905.⁷ By 1912 several other chiropractic schools appeared in the Twin Cities area.⁸ Those known to exist at this time include the Carroll School of Chiropractic and the Minnesota College of Non-Medicinal Therapy, the latter being incorporated on May 16, 1912.⁹ This college later became known as the Minnesota Chiropractic College. The principal figure behind its founding and advancement was Robert Ramsay, a 1908 graduate of Palmer School of Chiropractic.

Ramsay was an inquisitive man who traveled widely to seminars and post-graduate courses, especially at National College of Chiropractic, and subsequently taught a varied range of physiological therapeutics. The school ran a small hospital at 70 Willow Street in Minneapolis, beginning in 1920, and later received government funding to teach World War I veterans.¹¹

By 1920, the St. Paul College of Chiropractic and the Midwest College of Chiropractic on Chicago Ave. in Minneapolis were contemporaries of the Minnesota Chiropractic College, but neither school survived past 1927. The St. Paul School mistakenly received federal funds requested by the Minnesota Chiropractic College during the post-World War I years. After the funds were rerouted to the Minnesota Chiropractic College in 1924, many students left the St. Paul school, which seems to have led to its demise.¹²

Midwest College of Chiropractic was a school that taught "absolutely straight chiropractic". It was incorporated May 24, 1920, approximately a year after the March 13, 1919 law which licensed chiropractors in Minnesota.¹³ A 1921-22 catalog of the Midwest school boasts the largest enrollment of any school in the area. However, due to their rigid adherence to the textbooks and philosophy of the Palmer School, it is probable that the institution could not continue when the Minnesota basic science law was passed in 1927. An article in the *Chiron* (NWCC's student newspaper) suggests that Midwest students transferred to the Minnesota Chiropractic College in 1926.¹⁴ A letter in the 1935 *National Chiropractic Journal* states that three chiropractic colleges in Minnesota were forced to close due to the basic science law.¹⁵ This law, which required chiropractic students to sit at basic science exams in order to be licensed, decreased student population in many colleges. Another chiropractic college that existed in Minnesota during the 1920s, a likely third candidate for the list, was the International University of Chiropractic.¹⁶

Thus the basic science law and competition for students left only one chiropractic college operating in Minnesota during 1927, the Minnesota Chiropractic College. This school was not left unscathed and Robert Ramsay reports of the severe decline in enrollment which resulted when students became aware of the basic science law.¹⁷ The decreased enrollment led to the school's eviction from the 70 Willow Street premises and Ramsay and colleagues sold the school in 1934.¹⁸ Literature of the school is not available after this incident, but it is

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apparent that Ramsay again became involved with the school after it moved to Park Avenue in Minneapolis, close to his own practice. A hospital with about fifteen beds, established by Ramsay in 1940, was part of the school and the previous two nine-month terms became four eight-month terms to help students pass the basic science exams.¹⁹ The facilities, four year program, and student population were enough to allow the Minnesota Chiropractic College to appear on the first list of provisionally accredited chiropractic colleges late in 1941.²⁰

John B. Wolfe was a 1936 graduate of the University of Minnesota with a degree in civil engineering.²¹ His interest in chiropractic was passed to him from his father, an early Palmer graduate. Thus John Wolfe traveled to Davenport, took the eighteen month course at Palmer, and became good friends with David Palmer.²² In order to practice in Minnesota, Wolfe would need additional education to pass the basic science exams. Therefore, he spent approximately a year at the Minnesota Chiropractic College and graduated in 1940 with a second D.C. degree.²³

Wolfe began teaching chemistry and physiology courses at the Minnesota Chiropractic College and soon became acquainted with others who shared his discontent with the school. The reason Wolfe and his colleagues broke with the Minnesota College seems to be threefold: T. J. Burke, who was sole owner of the school, was admitting anyone who paid the \$20 monthly tuition and thus the school was becoming a "diploma mill."²⁴ It was felt that the school was not properly training chiropractors to pass the strict basic science exams in Minnesota. This led to many of the graduates practicing in nearby states.²⁵

There was a basic difference in the philosophy of chiropractic practice between Wolfe and Ramsay. Even though Ramsay did not teach at the school during this period, the physiological therapeutics and other methods such as radionics that Ramsay initiated were quite prevalent. Wolfe, on the other hand, did not employ physiotherapy in his practice.²⁶

At Wolfe's instigation, Jennings Wilson, D.C., and three students, Edward Wallick, Francis Flom and Robert Lee, pooled their resources and incorporated their own school, called Northwestern College of Chiropractic, on June 2, 1941.²⁷ Students who planned to transfer to the new college spent all summer on the sixth floor of the W. T. Grant Department Store, renovating and painting the space in preparation for classes that fall. In fact, the first day of classes saw little attendance since most of the students had been up late the night before to finish the painting.²⁸ Of thirty-five students who began at the college that fall, the majority were classmates from the Minnesota Chiropractic College.²⁹

Disaster struck NWCC when the draft began for World War II. Dr. Wolfe, an officer in the reserves, was called to duty before the winter months and many followed until the student population was only eight in 1942.³⁰ The day and night classes that began in the fall were now reduced to night classes, which allowed the faculty and students to work full-time. There was no money to pay the faculty, and those who remained to teach during these years did so at personal sacrifice. Wallick and his wife helped manage the school and keep it open while four doctors—H. Schneider, C. Lotzer, R. Claypool and R. Palmer taught the few students.³¹

The first graduates of NWCC were transfers from the Minnesota Chiropractic College who finished their studies in December of 1941. To alleviate the shortage of faculty, senior students would help tutor the newer students and the enrollment slowly climbed to 19 by the end of the war.³² The first student to completely finish the program was Thomas Hove, who graduated in May of 1944.³³ Until 1949, graduation consisted of receiving a diploma and a handshake at the registrar's office. The first official graduation ceremony was initiated on March 25, 1949 with the graduates of 1947 and 1948 joining in the ceremony.³⁴

The walkout of 1941 and the draft of World War II forced the Minnesota Chiropractic College to close its doors in 1943. The school retained its corporate structure until Robert Ramsay gave the charter to John Wolfe in 1946 in order to amalgamate the alumni of the two schools.³⁵ Therefore, all the returning chiropractic student-veterans along with many new students with G.I. coverage enrolled at NWCC in the post-war years. Day classes resumed in 1946, while night classes continued for the senior students who were finishing their studies.

A significant addition to the NWCC faculty appeared in the winter of 1946. J. LaMoine DeRusha was a 1937 graduate of the New York School of Chiropractic and had five years of teaching experience at the school.³⁶ In 1942, DeRusha had been called to serve in the war, and the Chiropractic Institute of New York was formed from three private schools in New York two years later.³⁷ DeRusha had visited Minneapolis before the war and had made plans to teach at the Minnesota Chiropractic College since his wife was a Minnesota native.³⁸ The end of the war and the amalgamation of the New York schools provided the opportunity to move. Since the Minnesota Chiropractic College was defunct, and NWCC was starting, Dr. DeRusha began teaching at the latter school. He immediately made a favorable impression on the students both because of far-ranging knowledge in the areas of anatomy and neurology and his ability to present this material in a clear and interesting manner. Many of the other teachers at the college, being NWCC graduates, were without experience in pedagogy. Dr. DeRusha was a notable exception.

Dr. Wolfe, now a lieutenant colonel in the Civil Engineering Corps, had been retained in Japan to assess the atomic bomb sites and returned to Minnesota in the latter part of 1946. Soon after this, Wolfe was officially installed as president of NWCC at a banquet held for World War II veterans.⁴⁰ Before the war there were no titles bestowed, and it was taken for granted that Dr. Wolfe was the president, since he owned one-half of the school as a proprietary institution.⁴¹

The curriculum was reorganized during the summer months of 1946 to set up a program that would allow each class level to progress through the school together. NWCC offered many of the classes that are part of the standard chiropractic curriculum of today including venipuncture and urinalysis, with the notable exception of physiotherapy.³⁹

Northwestern became known as a school with a strong basic science program, and many Palmer graduates enrolled at the school to prepare for their basic science exams.⁴² The program at NWCC was twelve four-month quarters, and the teaching method emphasized a strong background in the areas of anatomy and physiology. Wolfe and his faculty believed that this knowledge would enable the student to better

analyze the techniques taught in the applied courses. The theme centered on a "back to the basics" philosophy, which was averse to dogmatic debates over technique and scope of practice. Instead the system advocated an analysis of the patient, using the knowledge obtained through previous courses and experience, in order to utilize the technique or adjuncts which would fit the particular patient's need.⁴³ This type of teaching was liberal in the sense that the school did not strictly adhere to any one technique, but studied many techniques and utilized the ones that were deemed most beneficial through deduction from the basic sciences and personal clinical experience.

Along with the curricular growth, there was an increase in extracurricular activities during 1947 with the school participating in many local sporting events. *The Chironion* was initiated December 19, 1946⁴⁴ and enjoyed a circulation of 1500 during its heyday in 1947.⁴⁵ Dr. John Nugent, the NCA Director of Education, said, "*The Chironion* is one of the finest publications ever put forth in the field of chiropractic by a student group".⁴⁶

On January 18, 1947, the owners of NWCC met with representatives from the Minnesota Chiropractic Foundation to discuss the creation of a professionally controlled non-profit chiropractic college.⁴⁷ Nugent was present as an intermediary. A two year lag occurred between this meeting and the actual formation of the non-profit college. At many chiropractic colleges the owners were hesitant about giving up their for-profit status. It is probable that this also occurred at Northwestern. During these years enrollment continued to increase, especially from areas outside of Minnesota. The college was helped by Wolfe and DeRusha lecturing widely in the upper Midwest. Both men were dynamic and knowledgeable speakers, which gave NWCC a favorable name in the profession.

In January of 1949, a physical therapy course was added by Dr. Rensvold, a former Minnesota Chiropractic College professor. *The Chironion* includes the disclaimer: "this college does not necessarily advocate the use of physical therapy by its graduates, but it does want the students to become acquainted with the latest methods so they will at least be familiar with them. It will do no harm to know when it is most advantageous to use heat rather than cold in home care. If the students should decide in the future to incorporate some physical therapy in their practices, the chances of harm to patient from incorrect use of modalities will be relatively lessened."⁴⁸

Other enhancements of the NWCC curriculum in the late forties included classes in sports injuries taught by August Schulte, and pedagogy seminars for the faculty taught by Canadian Memorial's Major Colbeck. These class offerings are representative of Wolfe's commitment to expose his faculty and students to situations that would better their individual careers. The faculty members were paid very little and those who sacrificed time away from their practice to teach classes described the experience as a "labor of love".⁴⁹

Finally, on June 10, 1949, NWCC Foundation was incorporated as a non-profit organization, separate from NWCC Inc.⁵⁰ The Foundation title was officially used behind NWCC to distinguish it from the for-profit organization until 1980.⁵¹ The new corporate structure consisted of a board of trustees with

Frank Bell, of the Minnesota Chiropractic Foundation as chairman. Dr. Wolfe was elected president. The original founders, Wallick, Wilson, Flom, and Lee, were either officers or members of the board. The new corporate structure left faculty, staff, and tuition unchanged. Because of overcrowding at the downtown location, a new facility was sought. The Minnesota Chiropractic Foundation and the old NWCC Incorporated contributed funds for the purchase of two buildings at 2222 Park Avenue in Minneapolis.⁵²

In 1950, the progress of the school was in immediate danger when Wolfe fell ill to a heart condition. The remodeling costs that accompanied the move to the new campus seriously depleted any available funds. When Dr. G. M. Morreim was elected president to replace Wolfe in 1951, dissension arose concerning a solution to the financial difficulty. Three of the trustees felt it would be best to make the college a satellite of Logan College of Chiropractic.⁵³ Logan was enjoying a great deal of success during this period and many of NWCC's early graduates, including the three trustees, had taken a post-graduate course there which emphasized practice management.

The officers and faculty who opposed this action met around Wolfe's bed to discuss how to retain the school's independence.⁵⁴ Nugent was called to help the school. He suggested that a clinical laboratory program be implemented to aid the school's income.⁵⁵ Wolfe recovered in March of 1951 and Morreim agreed to resign. Morreim contributed a large sum of money to help pay for the Park Avenue campus, thus holding the mortgage for the school and also making certain stipulations against the practice of physiotherapy in the school's clinic.⁵⁶

Wolfe's father, Roy, died in 1951, resulting in his practice being left in the hands of his son. The board allowed Wolfe to be a part-time president and reduced his salary accordingly.⁵⁷ This occurrence seriously affected the state of the school. Wolfe was a strong leader and the school was hard-pressed to run smoothly without his guidance. This lack of leadership resulted in some stagnation at the school, until Wolfe returned to the position of full-time president in the crucial year of 1965.

In 1952 the clinic at the Park Avenue campus enjoyed an increased patient load and a night clinic was opened three times a week to accommodate the situation. Also, the board of trustees weighed the possibilities of taking over the operation, in conjunction with the Minnesota Chiropractic Foundation, of Ramsay's Park Avenue Hospital.⁵⁸ The motion was tabled and before a decision could be made, the hospital was closed in 1953 because of the lack of a sprinkler system. NWCC students never interned at the hospital, even though they were located a stone's throw away for three years (1950-1953).⁵⁹

During the latter half of the fifties, the alumni pushed for physiotherapy facilities to be added to the school clinic. This request was not granted until 1961, when the school paid the last of its mortgage, held by Morreim, and the stipulations against physiotherapy could be lifted.⁶⁰ The transition to the use of physiotherapy in the clinic was easy since the didactic course in physiotherapy had been initiated at the school in 1949.

An amendment to the Minnesota basic science law in 1955 seriously affected the future of NWCC. The amendment stated that in order to sit for basic science exams on or after January

1, 1963, a chiropractic student would be required to complete one year of college at a University of Minnesota accredited school. By January of 1965, that requirement would include two years of pre-chiropractic education.⁶¹ Along with this deterrence, enrollment was declining in chiropractic schools across the country with the realization that the schools were not accredited by the federal government. This caused a cycle of events at NWCC where decreased enrollment led to decreased recognition. During the 1960s the lowest enrollment next to the war years was to seriously challenge the future of the institution.

In 1958 the Chiropractic Research Foundation (CRF) was reorganized as the Foundation for Accredited Chiropractic Education (FACE). The goal was to elevate the condition of the chiropractic colleges to a level where the Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE) could be accepted for accreditation by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW). The money given to schools through this organization had to be requested with forms showing need and purpose. In addition, the college was to raise funds on its own, matching one-half of the grant sum.⁶² In 1961 the alumni association was reorganized to help the school obtain this funding.⁶³ Without this unification, the college would not have made it through the bleak years of 1964-67.

Inspection tours were frequent during the 1960s with the CCE teams sponsored by the National Chiropractic Association, and later the American Chiropractic Association, checking to see if certain conditions were met according to a timetable set forth in the Bill of Particulars. Up until 1963 the NCA considered Northwestern fully accredited, and funding was received from FACE as long as the alumni association pledges and other gifts met the 50 percent contingency.

The board of trustees decided to require two years of college as a prerequisite for the students entering in the fall of 1964.⁶⁴ This decision came at a very critical time when NWCC was frantically trying to comply with the 1963 Bill of Particulars, which stated the changes to be made in order to be eligible for FACE grants. The revisions, such as faculty improvements and facility reconstruction, were given termination dates at which time the school had to have the situation resolved or be subject to loss of aid. With the merger of NCA and a minority group from the International Chiropractic Association in the latter part of 1963, the school felt an increase in pressure from the newly formed ACA to prove its worth. Since the ACA did not recognize all the NCA approved schools and Northwestern lost its accreditation,⁶⁵ it would need a great deal of funding.

The ACA chose only those chiropractic schools with the best potential to fund, hoping this would result in timely accreditation by HEW. Wolfe stated at a 1964 meeting of the board that an all-out effort would be needed by the school and alumni to survive in the face of the ACA's continuing attitude to select only a few schools to remain in existence.⁶⁶ Wolfe reiterated that the hallmarks of NWCC would be to remain a limited enrollment college offering quality education.⁶⁷ Unfortunately, there were those who doubted that the school could make it, and rumors arose that the college would amalgamate with National College of Chiropractic.⁶⁸ However, Northwestern had a fierce tenacity to exist and revisions were made to keep the school viable.

Wolfe began a plan to cooperate with area colleges to enhance the educational atmosphere at NWCC. The curriculum was revised to accommodate a twenty-one month clinical training program. The college purchased a new cine-roentgenology unit in 1965, and the clinic improved its productivity under the management of John Allenburg.⁶⁹ Frequent board meetings were held during this year to keep up with the physical changes that were being made. The CCE team had indicated that renovations were needed at both buildings. Construction was started to move the clinic to a smaller building annex in order to separate it from the classrooms. Other renovations were needed for the sake of safety. Faculty members as well as students worked long hours to help the process along in anticipation of the next inspection.

The college received substantial assistance when Wolfe finally closed his practice late in 1965, and once again became a full-time president.⁷⁰ Los Angeles College of Chiropractic and National College of Chiropractic were fully accredited by the CCE in 1965, and NWCC received a conditional approval.⁷¹ The school was still not eligible for funding because only schools provisionally or fully accredited were funded in order to better present the institutions before the federal government for accreditation. The outstanding deficiencies listed for the school included faculty, library, and laboratories. The library situation was helped along with the hiring of a librarian in the latter part of 1966. With the books in disarray, and the hours short (four hours per day), ten years were required to catalog two-thirds of the library's resources.⁷² The money was limited, and the majority of faculty members were part-time chiropractors who came in from their practices to teach classes for little pay. Laboratories were also poorly equipped for the same basic reason.

The CCE inspection team appeared again in May of 1967 and found the physical plant and clinic to be acceptable. However, the team was highly critical of several of the instructors and their teaching methods of dictation and with the lack of teaching aids.⁷³ Nonetheless, the school was raised to the status of provisionally accredited.⁷⁴ This qualified it to receive funding from FACE. There was much excitement at the school because it was felt that the team would not have given this rating unless they felt the school was capable of attaining full accreditation. A major disappointment was the decrease in enrollment during this period because of the time and energy spent on physical changes. Wolfe was to help initiate a new student procurement plan. This was badly needed, because the two year pre-professional program was turning some students away. No other chiropractic school initiated a pre-professional program until 1968.⁷⁵

Two principal deficiencies remaining were the lack of an academic dean and the lack of teachers with academic qualifications to teach the basic sciences. It was also noted that the salaries were quite low for those involved, which was the core of the growth deficiency at NWCC. The Minnesota Department of Education inspected the school late in 1969 and concurred with many of the same recommendations of the CCE teams.⁷⁶

A landmark occurrence in 1970 was the result of the many attempts by Wolfe to coordinate NWCC's program with colleges in the area. A new systems curriculum was adopted that required students to take basic science courses at St.

Thomas College in St. Paul. This complied with the wish of the CCE to have all the basic science courses taught by faculty members possessing a Ph.D. The academic year was changed from quarters to semesters to coincide with the academic year of St. Thomas. Gerald Brassard, then president of the ACA, issued the following statement concerning the advancement: "I share with the entire chiropractic profession, pride in the tremendous accomplishment of Northwestern College of Chiropractic in the advancement of chiropractic education. Your unswerving devotion to the high standards of the Council on Chiropractic Education and your determined efforts on behalf of your college have resulted in this milestone achievement which will inevitably be reflected in benefit to the entire profession. Excellence has been the objective. You have neither sought nor settled for a lesser goal. We support and commend you and all who seek to attain high standards."⁷⁷

The library was constantly growing and the clinic now had the largest patient per intern load of any chiropractic college.⁷⁸ The faculty was still considered quite small and they were all basically part-time, but with the St. Thomas program the overall faculty was acceptable. Pledges started to increase with the renewed pride that the St. Thomas program brought to the school. Therefore, with the clinic listed as excellent, the faculty and labs listed as acceptable with the St. Thomas program and the physical plant renovated, the Northwestern College of Chiropractic Foundation Inc. was granted full accreditation by the Council on Chiropractic Education at its mid-year conference in 1971.⁷⁹

The school appeared to be doing very well for itself, but with the many visible changes that were made, other problems still remained that were not detected by the CCE. The organization of the school was awkward, since all the faculty were essentially part-time and the classes were being scheduled between two schools. It can readily be ascertained that this program was difficult for the students involved. In 1972 the discontent of the students was manifested with the creation of a school newspaper called *The Irritated Nerve*⁸⁰ and the signing of a petition which listed the deficiencies of the school from their point of view.⁸¹ The main concerns stated on the petition were the lack of full-time professors, lack of an academic dean and lack of the dissection facilities which had been promised.

The school was screening applicants for academic dean in 1972, and found Donald Cassata who was both qualified and interested.⁸² However, Cassata was at the University of Minnesota, finishing his doctoral dissertation, when a position in the Department of Family Medicine opened. Cassata stayed in touch with board members at Northwestern which resulted in his appointment as the second president of NWCC upon Wolfe's retirement.

The board of trustees answered the petition of the students early in 1973, commenting that their concerns were the same. An academic dean was to be hired in the fall of 1973, but full-time faculty would take more money than the school had at that time. It was not feasible to equip a dissection laboratory, since the school was then considering expanding to a new campus. A student handbook later was created to assist the students in knowing their rights and the committees on which they could sit in order to know the business of the school.

The St. Theresa Catholic School building at 1834 Mississippi Boulevard in St. Paul became the topic of discussion at board and alumni meetings. This facility was purchased in the fall of 1973, which expanded the facilities and potential of Northwestern.⁸⁴ The school kept its clinic at Park Avenue in Minneapolis and added one at the new school. There were also regular student body assemblies initiated into the program to help narrow the communication gap between students and administration. *The Irritated Nerve* was later replaced with *The Plexus* (1976),⁸⁵ which returned to printing school news instead of derogatory commentaries.

A large fund drive by the alumni from North and South Dakota allowed NWCC to bring its basic sciences back under one roof.⁸⁶ The new facility provided the room, and the money realized from the discontinuance of the St. Thomas program would allow the college to hire its own basic science faculty. Grace Jacobs was the first full-time faculty member to be hired by Northwestern⁸⁷ and was the leading force of the newly formed basic science program.

The CCE examined the laboratories and listed the lack of cadavers as a "material deficiency", but complimented the manner in which anatomy was being taught with the use of models and animal dissection.⁸⁸

Legal action was needed to obtain cadavers on an equal basis with the University of Minnesota medical school. In the spring of 1976, the governor of Minnesota signed a law that gave NWCC the right to obtain cadavers.⁸⁹ The year before, Northwestern had obtained cadavers through the Demonstrators Association of Illinois with the help of National President Joseph Janse.⁹⁰

The school clinics expanded rapidly during the latter half of the seventies, with branch clinics being added at Cannon Falls and Robbinsdale. The Robbinsdale clinic was the property of Walden Schoenheider, successor of Frank Bell as chairman of the board for NWCC, who died in 1974. The clinic was named the Walden Schoenheider Memorial Clinic in honor of the many years that Schoenheider served the interests of the school.⁹¹ The Cannon Falls clinic was quite a distance from the school, and was sold in 1976, leaving NWCC with three outpatient facilities.

The CCE received accreditation from HEW in 1974. This meant that federal grants and loans were now available to the students, and there was a marked rise in enrollment at NWCC. The college was growing, and a full-time faculty was one of the top priorities. Allenburg, clinic director since 1965, became the Dean of Chiropractic Studies and hired many qualified faculty members. He also implemented the Chiropractic Preceptor Associate Program in 1977: "a revolutionary program instituted by Northwestern College of Chiropractic allowing a senior intern to complete the final months of school in the field practicing as an associate with an established doctor."⁹² The same year the college embarked on a research program that would continually collect and store "biographic, demographic and clinical patient information" to be used in formulating research questions that would promote clinical trials.⁹³ Project "D", as it was termed, was supervised by Charles Sawyer and was the first effort by any chiropractic college to develop such a clinical data base.⁹⁴

The educational atmosphere developing at NWCC was further aided by Dale Good, Ed.D. As the first full-time Academic Dean, Good added stability and cohesiveness to the program. The classes were better coordinated to cover important aspects without overlapping, and the students at NWCC began to do quite well on National Board Examinations.⁹⁵ Also, a Bachelor of Science degree program was offered NWCC alumni through the External Degree Division at Upper Iowa University.⁹⁶ A self-evaluation report, prepared for the CCE visitation in 1978, depicts the extremely large steps that NWCC took in advancing the interests of the school.⁹⁷ The report was quite extensive, and the head of each department participated by listing the strengths, weaknesses, and improvements to be made in their respective division.

The clinic at Park Avenue was sold in 1978 and a new clinic at 621 Cleveland Avenue in St. Paul was acquired.⁹⁸ The school used the money from the Park Avenue sale to purchase another Minneapolis clinic at 2929 Bloomington Avenue in 1980.⁹⁹ Thus the school owned an outpatient clinic in St. Paul along with branch clinics in Robbinsdale and Minneapolis.

The St. Paul campus was beginning to experience congestion, and the need to expand became apparent. Northwestern desired to build on its St. Paul campus, but ran into zoning problems.¹⁰⁰ A positive action committee consisting of board members, alumni, faculty and students began searching for a new campus in 1979.¹⁰¹ Many schools were considered and even bid on, but to no avail. Finally, a school on Penn Avenue in Bloomington became the main topic of discussion.

The school was purchased in August of 1983, ending the four year search.¹⁰² The remodeling was to be done by September, but it was halted when renovation plans exceeded the estimated cost. Some laboratories and offices were left

unfinished and the proposed clinic to be constructed on the second floor was postponed. However, the college was in a more stable position than during previous moves and the situation was soon resolved. The building was large and there was ample room for expansion. The college remained committed to quality education and limited enrollment.

Wolfe was able to draw up his own retirement plan in 1982 with some compensation for the times that he voluntarily reduced his salary.^{103,104} It was also noted that Wolfe's vacation time was virtually never used. V. Duane Henre, who served as Assistant to the President, was asked to head a commission to find a new president in 1983. The search concluded with Donald Cassata, Ph.D., being offered the position. He accepted it on December 8, 1983, and was contracted to replace Wolfe the following summer.¹⁰⁵

John B. Wolfe was the vital force in the development of NWCC. He was consequently honored with the title President Emeritus upon his retirement. Invaluable contributions to NWCC's evolution were made by numerous others, most notably Dean Emeriti DeRusha and Dr. Allenburg.

Chiropractic education has been an independent, isolated struggle on the part of educators such as John B. Wolfe. The story of Northwestern College of Chiropractic is a testimony to the perils that have besieged the schools in the chiropractic profession. Northwestern started with few resources and progressed to a state of relative stability and educational prosperity. This development took time and was led by people dedicated to advancing the chiropractic profession. The school has now matured, received federal approval, and is financially sound. New challenges are being faced, and the commitment to excellence in chiropractic education remains the ultimate goal.

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